

Coal Demand Could Rise 500 Times in Decade

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Herald Staff Writer

The demand for Utah coal and coal from other mines throughout the United States could rise 500 percent over the next decade.

A world coal study conducted by scientists from 16 countries looks at coal as the staple to supply the world's future energy needs. In their study the scientists concluded that coal will supply between half and two-thirds of the world's needs by the year 2000. Now coal supplies only 25 percent of the world's energy requirements.

In the Spring of 1981, Gov. Scott M. Matheson revealed an agreement between Japan and the Western Governor's Policy Office (WESTPO) to co-sponsor a study of the future of the expanding western coal exports.

Matheson, the chairman of the WESTPO western coal export task force, wants to see more Utah coal entering the world market.

At the time of the signing of the Japanese/WESTPO agreement he said, "Our goal is a more rapid development of coal trade between the western United States and Asia."

The president of the National Coal Association, Carl E. Bagge, also sees a rapidly expanding world coal trade, but he has some deep concerns.

"The United States is on the verge of realizing a golden opportunity to become a major exporter of energy, a role that has long-term implications not only for our trade relations, but also for the strength of our current

cy," Bagge says.

His fear is that transportation for coal will not stand up to nor allow a fast widespread increase of coal exports to levels being forecast.

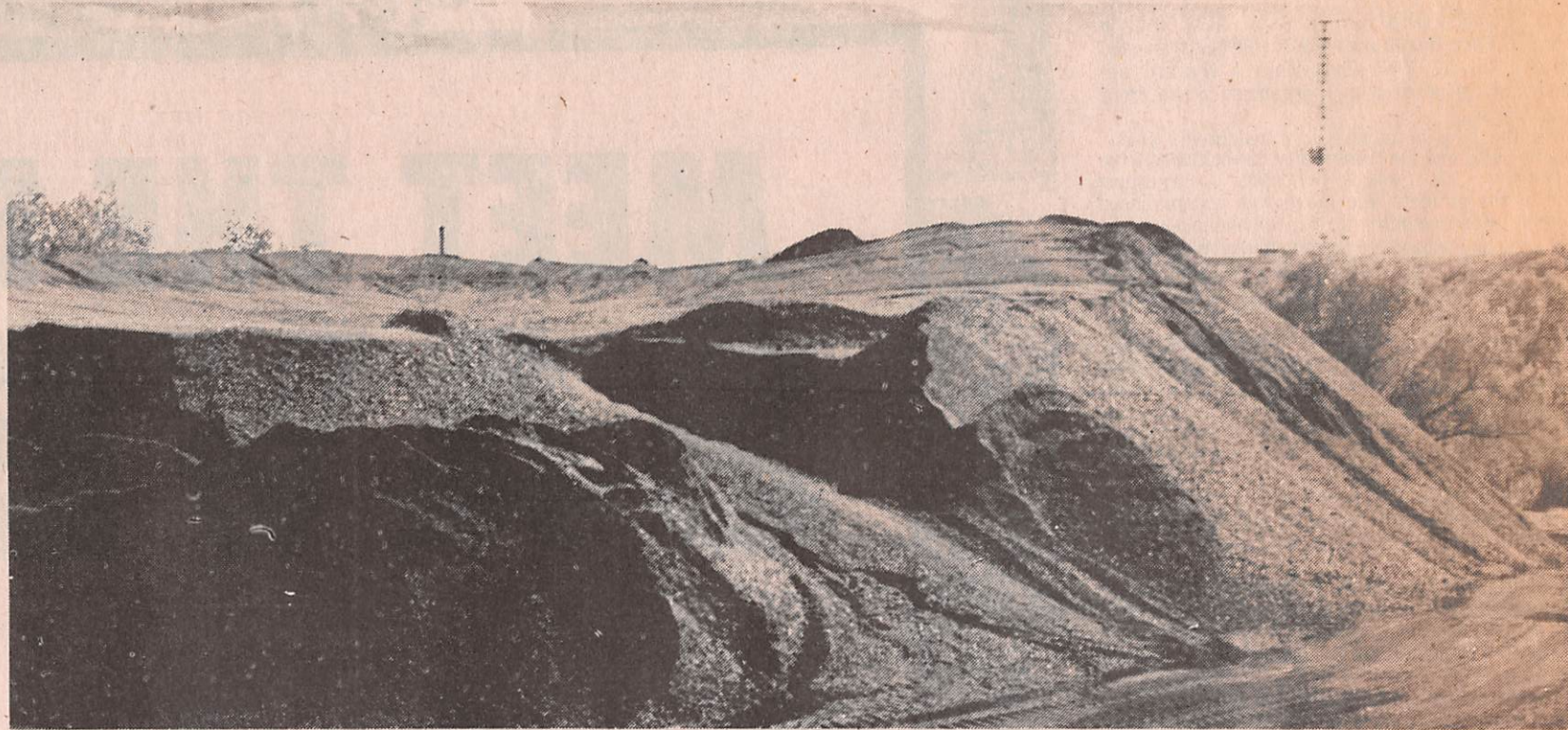
He says Congress must act soon on proposals to improve U.S. ports if the nation is to gain its potential share of the rapidly expanding world coal trade. Bagge told a Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee last year the opportunity in world coal markets "may well be lost if Congress does not act quickly to accelerate dredging to provide deep-draft ports."

In 1980 a significant change occurred in U.S. coal exporting when a large number of foreign buyers turned to the United States for steam coal to replace costly and insecure supplies of oil used by electric utilities and industry. The United States, up until that time, had been an exporter of metallurgical coal used in steel production.

Bagge claims that in 1980 the United States exported a record 90 million tons of coal. The increased demand has resulted in costly back-logs at coal-loading piers. Waiting times at some ports have exceeded 100 days. This adds an average of \$10 to \$15 to the cost of each ton of coal being shipped.

Improvements are needed and Bagge says it is up to both private and government sectors to make them. "The first requirement is the construction of new coal-handling facilities," he says. And he adds, this must be done by the private sector.

Bagge claims the capacity to



Phil Shurtleff Photo

Utah Power's Hale plant at Provo Canyon's mouth burns coal.

load coal must be combined with the ability to ship it economically. "In the future," he says, "The competitiveness of U.S. coal in the world market will depend upon our ability to provide deep-draft access to our harbors." He says the U.S. government will have to dredge the ports.

Competing nations such as Australia, South Africa and

Canada already have ports handling the super ships that carry an increasing portion of the world coal trade and require deep-draft ports.

Numerous scientific studies show that the United States is "the Saudi Arabia of coal." Coal is the world's most plentiful fuel since and more than 25 percent it lies underground in four

large coal regions in the United States: the Appalachian region, the Interior Northeastern and Southwestern. Utah is in the Southwestern Region.

The U.S. Geological Survey has mapped more than 1.7 trillion tons and the federal or agency estimates that there is probably that much more still waiting to be uncovered.

U.S. recoverable reserves, it is estimated, should fulfill the nation's needs for more than 100 years and still allow a big coal exporting business.

But scientists and coal economists say the transportation system needs to be upgraded if the nation is going to make coal "king" as it was earlier this century.

American Fork Unit Impressive

AMERICAN FORK — The new \$12.2 million American Fork Hospital at 170 N. 1100 East opened officially Nov. 12, 1981, when Mark J. Howard, administrator, directed a well-organized move from the old hospital.

With the help of hundreds of volunteers from schools, clubs and the community, ambulances from neighboring cities, and a helicopter to transport some of the patients, the move was accomplished smoothly with a minimum of inconvenience.

Patients appreciate the privacy and convenience of the rooms at the new hospital. Doctors report they are 'impressed' with the new facility and find it a good place to work.

More than \$1 million has been spent for new equipment at the hospital, including a Laminar flow system which allows surgeons to perform total joint surgery for replacement of hips, shoulder joints, etc. It also means micro-surgery, such as kidney and eye surgery, is now possible at the American Fork Hospital.

The first total hip replacement was performed at the new hospital in January, and many other procedures are now possible because of the new equipment.

A central fetal monitor in the delivery area, a new monitoring system in the intensive care unit, electric beds in all patient rooms, an emergency power system, are all adding to the quality of care at the hospital.

A remote controlled Fluro unit, purchased at a cost of \$315,000, is being used in the radiology Department. It has extensive capabilities, doing more than could be done with several units at the old hospital in less time.

A highly specialized staff, trained in trauma situations, is on duty 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays in the Emergency Center.

A cardiac telemetry system enables the ambulance crew to transmit an 'electrical picture' of the patient's heart rate and rhythm to physicians and specially trained nurses.

The American Fork Hospital is the only hospital in Utah County that has all private labor rooms, post-delivery recovery rooms and post partum rooms.

There are 68 single patient rooms to provide the utmost in privacy, and four semi-private rooms. Most of the rooms have large windows with a superb view of beautiful Mt. Timpanogos.

The birthing rooms at the new hospital offers

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